

ENGLISH 363

CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN FICTION

S 2014

MWF 1-1:50 DOODY BAKER 116

JANUARY

1. Introduction and Rules
Robinson Gilead

2. MLK DAY
Barthelme Snow White

3. DeLillo
Paper # 1 Due 1/31 The Names

FEBRUARY

4. O'Brien The Things They Carried

5. Morrison Jazz

6. Jones The Known World

7. Jones
Paper #2 Due 2/28 “

MARCH

8. SPRING BREAK

9. McCann Let the Great World Spin

10. McCann “

11. Ford Independence Day

APRIL

12. Ford
Paper #3 Due 3/28 “

13. SPACE

14. Roth Sabbath's Theater

15. Roth “

Final Paper Due 4/7

OFFICE HOURS Herring 322 MW 2-3:30 TTh 9-11

Topics for papers will be assigned as we read into the material.

The primary goals of this course are:

- 1.to survey the recent American novel and its wide range of themes and forms
- 2.to learn to read each novel up from the level of the sentence, though its formal elements—such as point of view, the nature of its characterization, its internal structures—to the openness or closure of its ending and its relation to the reader
- 3.to locate, then, these aesthetic features in the historical context that the novels themselves imply
- 4.and to assess the values that the themes articulate
5. in four essays that analyze both these formal and social issues and their influence on each other.

The meaning of any writing is always embedded in the nature of the conventions that govern the writing's form, and understanding the conventions of the novel aids us in reading other forms of literature, which are subject to other conventions, as all other forms of discourse are.